

THE NATIONALS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Winter 2008 The Nationals Western Australia PO Box 1395 Perth WA 6872 P 1300 NATS WA (628 792) Fx 1300 858 792

A strong team for regional WA



Photos (clockwise from top left) Tom Day (North West), Alan Cochrane (Pilbara), Dave Grills (M&P Region), Tony Crook (Kalgoorlie), Pat Hughes (South West Region) and John McCourt (Kimberley). Colin Holt (South West Region) not pictured.



The Nationals WA have endorsed more candidates to contest the next State election, in which the Party is seeking to gain the balance of power in both Houses of Parliament.

Broome local and former journalist John McCourt has been pre-selected for the electorate of Kimberley. Mr McCourt, 54, is a director of his own media and management consultancy business based in Broome and has previously worked for both Channel Seven and GWN as Director of News.

Colin Holt and Pat Hughes have been selected in the first and second positions respectively on the South West ticket for the Legislative Council.

Mr Holt, 44, is a director of community development organisation ARID Group and former employee of the Department of Agriculture. Colin was

number two on the South West ticket at the last State election.

Pat Walmsley Hughes, 47, is a farmer and has been a teacher for more than 25 years. She is currently based between Bunbury and the family farm in Shackleton.

Kalgoorlie local and immediate past chairman of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Western Operations) Tony Crook was pre-selected for the electorate of Kalgoorlie.

Mr Crook, 48, was The Nationals' lead Senate candidate in the 2007 Federal Election.

David Grills has been pre-selected to the second position on the Mining and Pastoral ticket. Mr Grills, 49, has served as an officer in the WA Police Force for 15 years. He was a councillor

for the Shire of Leonora and also has experience in the mining sector, working for St Barbara Ltd (Gwalia).

Long-time Carnarvon local Tom Day, 67, has been pre-selected to contest the electorate of North West. Mr Day, a banana plantation owner, has 15 years experience in local government, six as president of the Carnarvon Shire. He is currently the chairman of the Sweet Banana Co-Op and the WA/NT director of Australian Banana Growers Council.

Transport operator and Newman resident Alan Cochrane, 52, was successful in his bid for pre-selection for the Pilbara electorate. Mr Cochrane worked through the Wheatbelt prior to moving to the Pilbara and now works in the mining, transport and earthmoving business.

The Nationals WA **4811**
GALA DINNER
2008

You are invited to join the Nationals team for a Gala Dinner on 22nd August 2008. This event will showcase our candidates and vision for Western Australia ...

From the House ...

Redman takes on Government over water tariffs

Stirling MLA Terry Redman has put pressure on the Government to justify moves to increase commercial water tariffs in regional areas by up to 107 per cent over the next five years.

The Minister for Agriculture Kim Chance refused to deny that commercial price rises were the thin end of the wedge to the introduction of full cost recovery for all water users, leaving the inescapable impression that country residents are being set up for another hit on their hip pockets.

The Minister's statement that "there is no way we can escape people's water bills reflecting the cost of providing water" (Hansard May 14, 2008), sends an unmistakable warning to regional water users; given that the cost of providing water to country homes is substantially higher than in metropolitan Perth.

Western Power loophole closed

The Nationals WA have convinced the State Government to compensate a group of elderly Quairading residents, including a 99-year-old woman, whose claims for two recent power outages were rejected, due to a loophole in Western Power's system. The outages trapped 99 year old Esther Champion in her house for more than 20 hours when she was unable to access her gopher garaged behind an electric powered roller door. The current power outage policy allows people with allocated meters to claim a compensation payment of \$80 if their power is lost for more than 12 hours. The elderly residents were on sub-meters which meant they forfeited their right to compensation, despite paying individual power bills.

Dialysis machine for the Great Southern

Wagin MP Terry Waldron has pushed hard in State Parliament for a Dialysis Centre to be located at an appropriate hospital to service dialysis patients in the Central and Upper Great Southern regions. A dialysis machine and appropriate staff located in Katanning, Narrogin or Wagin would greatly reduce the travel, cost and stress for those who have to access dialysis. People in the region who need to utilise a local dialysis machine to are encouraged to contact Terry's office on (08) 9881 1225 so information can be collated and presented to the Government.

Young Nationals news ...

Martin Aldridge, YN State President



The Young Nationals held their AGM on Friday 27th June with members from all over the State attending. Office bearer elections were held and I was returned as President, Michael Rose as Vice President and Jo Hawksley as Secretary, while Darren Moir was

elected Treasurer and new member Brendan Smith was elected to the Executive. We debated topics including public transport, support for school teachers, country ambulance services, and defensive driving courses for all new drivers. Members also decided to support the State election campaign initially by providing a roadside banner for all Lower House candidates to display in their electorates. Many members have also shown their support for manning polling booths and assisting with door knocking in the months to come. Mia Davies and I attended branch meetings in Merredin, Narembene, and Bruce Rock in the last month. I would like to thank those branches for their hospitality and allowing us to address their meetings.

POINTLESS



EVER FEEL LIKE YOU'RE GETTING A RAW DEAL?

No, we're not going mad! These two quirky postcards are the first to feature in a series mailed out to select locations in regional WA. The 'Pointless' postcard highlights the fact that the State Government has rendered the daylight savings and shopping hours referendums 'pointless' by ignoring them. The 'raw deal' postcard points out that the Government is spending millions of dollars in Perth electorates - dollars that were generated in regional WA. Visit www.nationalswa.com for the full text.

On the campaign trail



Brendon Grylls and Grant Woodhams (second and third from right) with members of the Dalwallinu Telecentre staff



Sabrina Dowling Giudici, Wendy Duncan, Tom Day (North West) and Brendon Grylls in Carnarvon at the Carnarvon Overseas Telecommunications Commission



Wendy Duncan, Brendon Grylls, Bill Cowan and Martin Aldridge (Agricultural Region) at the Narembeen Branch meeting held on 23 June 2008



Filming The Nationals WA Upper House television advertisement on the steps of Parliament House



Wendy Duncan and Suzie Williams (Eyre), wearing The Nationals *Royalties for Regions* t-shirt at the Nullabor Muster



Mia Davies, Doug Cunningham, Brendon and Thomas Grylls at the North West Expo in Broome



Wendy Duncan, Suzie Williams (Eyre), Tony Crook (Kalgoorlie), Brendon Grylls and Dave Grills (Mining & Pastoral) in Kalgoorlie at a Goldfields party function



Martin Aldridge, Max Trenorden and Grant Woodhams at the Gingin Expo



The Nationals WA *Royalties for Regions* T-shirts at the Gingin Show



Wendy Duncan, Terry Redman, Brendon Grylls and Bev Mulvihill at a Nationals' strategy weekend in Walpole



Jo Hawksley, Michael Rose (Murray-Wellington) and supporters at the Harvey Show



Terry Waldron addressing the Community and Public Sector Union rally on the steps of Parliament House

President's Message



Since I last reported to you through this newsletter, I am pleased to report that your State Council and Executive have been working hard with great results for our election campaign. We have endorsed a fabulous group of individuals who are committed to The Nationals, but most importantly, are committed to their electorates.

Our strength going forward into the election campaign will be the fact that our candidates are local champions - people who live and work in their electorates and understand the local economy and community.

It is with this team in mind that your State Council voted to postpone this year's Annual Conference and Convention. The next State election is without doubt the most critical in our Party's history. It is imperative that our small team of dedicated workers are focused on the campaign and supporting our candidates. This decision was not taken lightly or without long discussion. I want to assure all members that the opportunity to debate motions brought forward from Branch and Electorate Council AGMs will be provided at an extended State Council meeting to be held later in the year. In the interim, I encourage you to contact your local MP or candidate with your policy initiatives.

I encourage you to join us for our Gala Dinner to meet and socialise with your fellow members. The event will showcase our fantastic team of candidates and I look forward to seeing you all on the night.

Cathy Wood, State Director

I am pleased to report that since our last newsletter many of you have dug deep and donated your hard earned dollars to assist us contest this critical election.

With your help, we can continue to spread our message throughout Western Australia. No donation is too small. As the saying goes, every little bit counts.

There are many ways you can contribute - a direct donation, sponsoring a television or radio advertisement; purchasing car magnets or paying for a billboard. Now is the time to dig deep and support the Party that is working to support you.



Annual Conference

At the last State Council meeting on June 20, councillors voted to postpone this year's Annual State Conference and Convention until no later than April 2009. With a State election on the horizon it was decided that our team should be focused on what promises to be a critical election for the Party.

Campaigning made easy ...



Doorknocking doesn't take your fancy? Now there's an easy way for you to help your local Nationals candidate campaign ... purchase a pair of car magnets for just \$105.00 and your vehicle will become a roving advertisement for The Nationals WA. Contact us on (08) 9480 0481 or fax (08) 9321 0320 or email info@nationalswa.com and we'll send you an order form or take your details over the phone.

Farewell to Murray Criddle

The Geraldton Branch hosted a testimonial dinner in honour of Hon. Murray Criddle's retirement. Another function will be held in Perth later in the year - all members will be invited to attend.



Above (left to right): Del Criddle, Andrew Short, Hon. Murray Criddle at Murray's testimonial function in Geraldton, June 6.